

**STATE OF NEVADA
MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Nevada Department of Education – Board Room
755 N. Roop Street, Suite 201
Carson City, NV 89701

**MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2015**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chairman David White called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Roll call was read, and the attendees present are as recorded below. Chairman White noted after the Roll Call was completed that the meeting had a quorum.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David White, Commission Chairman
Arnie Maurins, Commission Member
Bruce Meissner, Commission Member
Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent
David Flatt, Commission Member
Irene Chachas, Commission Member
Mike Amie, Commission Member
Nick Poulson, Commission Member
Senator Mo Denis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Gustafson, Ex-Officio Member
Ji Wang, Commission Member
Assemblyman Paul Anderson

STAFF:

Dr. Kimberly Vidoni
Evelyn Barragan
Amanda Pinter

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alan Medeiros, Lyon County School District
Terra Graves, Washoe County School District
Robert Sidford, Washoe County School District
Janice Towns, Carson City School District
Ed Grassia, Washoe County School District
Brent Lee, Connect Nevada
Ms. Susan Neal, Elko County School District

2. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman David White led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman White asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 11/17/2014 MINUTES

Commissioner David Flatt moved to approve the 11/17/2014 minutes. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COMMISSION'S ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND E4E'S ONLINE ASSESSMENT COURSE FOR NEVADA EDUCATORS

Chairman White turned the discussion over to Dr. Kim Vidoni.

Dr. Vidoni stated that during the process of preparing the department's budget for legislative session, it was discovered that the commission's funds have accumulated approximately \$19,000 in interest since 1997. At the same time, the department has been looking at ways to support districts and teachers to gear up for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). E-Learning for Educators (E4E) is an online professional development program, with a consortium between Elko County School District, Washoe County School District and KNPB Public Television in Reno. The commission has funded E4E in the last two funding cycles, approximately \$65,000 in 2011 and \$10,000 in 2013. Dr. Vidoni received a survey last week that indicated the districts' main concerns about SBAC delivery is preparing teachers both to deliver the assessment and to focus their teaching practices to gear them toward future ready graduates.

Dr. Vidoni is asking the commission to consider E4E's proposal for approximately \$19,000 to develop and offer a free, online training course to teachers in preparation for SBAC. **Dr. Vidoni** introduced **Ms. Susan Neal** from Elko, Nevada, and **Ms. Terra Graves** from Washoe County School District.

Ms. Susan Neal stated that the course is titled "Assessment in 21st-Century Classrooms." It was developed by Intel, a partner of E4E. It is an in-depth look at the needs of 21st-century teaching and learning so teachers will discover how assessment strategies can benefit teaching practices and students' learning. They anticipate a six-week course, starting on the second Tuesday of each month through June in order to accommodate the needs of teachers. The class would be free, and teachers would earn two in-service credits.

Ms. Terra Graves stated that more information is available on the Washoe School District MOODLE, and that includes an online forum to build collaboration among teachers across the state. She believes the Intel model gives a well-rounded look at assessment in a 21st-century classroom. A sixth module will be developed that will focus on SBAC strategies.

Superintendent Dale Erquiaga asked if this would be publicized to teachers in all districts. **Ms. Graves** responded yes. He further asked for verification that the in-service credits would apply to the six credits needed for license renewal. **Ms. Graves** verified that this is the case and said they are working on getting approval from the department office. **Ms. Graves** said that the course can be packaged for use by other districts, if desired. **Ms. Graves** said that she and **Ms. Neal** will facilitate the first instance of the class.

Chairman White asked what would be the motivation of a district to facilitate the course themselves if it is available already to everyone at no cost. **Ms. Graves** responded that, for example, a district might want to facilitate a face-to-face course or a blended course that utilizes both face-to-face and online aspects. She added that Washoe County offers a wide variety of courses (online, face-to-face and blended) in order to accommodate different methods of learning. **Chairman White** asked how many teachers consider themselves to be online learners. **Ms. Graves** responded that she believes it to be less than 50 percent, and they see more demand for online learning.

Dr. Vidoni asked when the first round of courses are anticipated to become available. **Ms. Neal** responded that they are looking at the second Tuesday in February, February 10.

Commissioner Arnie Maurins asked about the funding requested. He pointed out that the narrative lists \$19,327, while the backup shows \$19,300. **Ms. Neal** apologized for the error and said the correct number is \$19,327, which is the amount available from the interest accrued.

Commissioner Nick Poulson asked about the nature of online corroboration. **Ms. Neal** responded that right now they have an online forum that does not require online presence at a specific time.

Senator Mo Denis asked about initial availability. **Ms. Neal** responded E4E is a collaboration between Elko, Washoe and KNPd in Reno, but the classes will be available statewide to all teachers, including charter schools and private schools. **Senator Denis** clarified that this is to provide a greater understanding of assessment and asked when it would be available. **Ms. Neal** reiterated that the goal is for the first round to be available during the second week of February. She clarified that the cost of implementation is to pay for facilitators, course development and data collection.

Commissioner Meissner moved to approve additional funds in the amount of \$19,327.00 to E4E based on their proposal. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

6. UPDATE ON PROGRESS SINCE LAST MEETING ON NEVADA READY 21

Chairman White turned the discussion over to Superintendent Erquiaga.

Superintendent Erquiaga stated that during his State of the State Address, the governor included the first phase of the Nevada Ready 21 One-to-One Plan rollout in his recommended budget. Nevada Ready 21 is a plan for implementing one-to-one student computing that provides students with a personal, mobile learning device. It will be rolled out in whole schools, beginning with middle schools, over six years. The governor proposed in his budget a total of \$50 million over two years. That will go before the money committees for approval. This commission would execute that plan, accepting proposals from whole middle schools, moving through the state until funds are depleted. The governor has proposed that if the program is successful, funding will be built into the budget.

The governor also requested money for broadband and WAN matching grants for schools or districts that don't have the necessary technology. The governor's budget requests a contracted program director and contract services to manage the rollout and evaluation.

Superintendent Erquiaga said the task now is to get approval. He recommends each member of the commission to advocate in favor of this plan to members of the money committees, full members of the body and others. Digital Learning Day provides a good opportunity for discussion. **Superintendent Erquiaga** stated that his organization does not lobby, but they do provide information. It is important to communicate how technology makes a difference and why this expenditure matters.

Chairman White asked for advice how commissioners can advocate with their personal relationships while avoiding lobbying activity. **Superintendent Erquiaga** recommended registration as a government employee at LCB and obtain a badge in order to talk to legislators while in the building. Registration as a government employee is sufficient, as this is provision of information regarding a publicly adopted plan. Outside of the building, any constituent or private citizen is entitled to communicate with legislators.

Commission Maurins asked if administration of the Nevada Ready 21 funding would be in place of, or in addition to, the grants that were done in the past. **Superintendent Erquiaga** responded that the prior grants will fold into this plan. The \$50 million will be designated for Nevada Ready 21, and then the broadband related to this.

Chairman White stated that this is incredible news and thanked **Superintendent Erquiaga**.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COMMISSION'S DIGITAL LEARNING DAY AWARD RFA

Chairman White turned the discussion over to **Dr. Vidoni**.

Dr. Vidoni asked for three commissioners to review and score the applications for the Digital Learning Day Award RFA during the week of March 9. All review and scoring is done online and is asynchronous. In the past, there have been approximately 10 to 12 applications, limited to 500 or 1,000 characters. An unidentified member reminded that each volunteer needs to review every application. Commissioners David White, Nick Poulson and Mike Amie volunteered. **Chairman White** expressed his thanks.

8. DISCUSSION ON DIGITAL LEARNING DAY ACTIVITIES

Chairman White: Turned the discussion over to **Dr. Vidoni**.

Dr. Vidoni reminded the commission that Digital Learning Day is February 5 and reviewed some planned activities. A group of students, educators, private-sector partners and commissioners will assemble in the foyer of the legislative building to showcase instructional technology best practices with a focus on Nevada Ready 21. An online debate will be hosted between two high school AP social studies classes at Clark County High School and Carson City High School. The topic is: Should Nevada have a community service requirement for graduation? The classrooms will be connected through Centra, and other classrooms can observe and comment. Two Carson City High School students will be broadcasting the debate in the foyer and will be available to answer legislators' questions and facilitate their interaction with the debate. Students from Carson City and Washoe will showcase in the foyer how technology is used in their classrooms. Representatives from private-sector partners Cisco and Intel will be present, along with representatives from One-to-One Institute and the commission. Other commissioners are welcome on February 5 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The aim is to promote understanding about Nevada Ready 21.

Chairman White asked if there would be a list of discussion topics. **Dr. Vidoni** responded that there will be informational posters, as well as copies of the plan and a FAQ sheet, which includes a copy of the budget and talking points. **Chairman White** recommended that the FAQ sheet be provided to commissioners ahead of time.

Senator Denis offered to help inform legislators about the planned activities. He suggested **Dr. Vidoni** speak with his assistant to put together a letter about Nevada Ready 21 and Digital Learning Day. **Dr. Vidoni** stated that she prepared an information document about Digital Learning Day and will provide it.

Chairman White asked **Senator Denis** for more guidance on how to address this particular piece of the budget. Are there other strategies he believes would be of value? **Senator Denis** suggested taking advantage of any personal relationships with legislators. He said he believes a brief information handout would be helpful. **Chairman White** stated that Assemblyman Anderson is key as chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and asked who his counterpart is in the Senate. **Senator Denis** answered that Senator Ben Kieckhefer is chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

Commissioner Poulson asked if it would be beneficial or counterproductive if more commissioners were to attend Digital Learning Day. **Dr. Vidoni** answered that one or two would be preferable but no more than three. There are concerns about potentially assembling a quorum. **Senator Denis** said that those commissioners who attend Digital Learning Day should consider setting appointments with legislators, time permitting.

Dr. Vidoni mentioned that Digital Learning Day coincides with a meeting of the Nevada Association of State Superintendents. They are on the agenda for 15 minutes to share Nevada Ready 21 and hopefully muster support.

9. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Superintendent Erquiaga stated that the governor's recommended budget also includes funding, in the Office of the Governor, for the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology to be funded. This includes funding for the state's broadband connectivity effort and encompasses staffing and mapping.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman White asked for public comment.

Ms. Neal thanked the commission for their support and said she will keep them informed of progress and results. **Chairman White** thanked **Ms. Neal**.

11. SELECT DATE FOR NEXT MEETING AND POSSIBLE TOPICS

Chairman White stated they have been looking at Monday, April 6 at 1:00 p.m. It was noted that both Washoe County and Carson City are on spring break. Possible topics are approval of the nomination for the Commission Digital Learning Day Award, an update on the budget and recommendations to facilitate the budget process. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 6 at 1:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman White entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Maurins moved to adjourn.